

SENATE BILL 2278

By Tracy

AN ACT to name a bridge on State Route 99 in Rutherford County in honor of the late Lance Corporal Justin Kyle Lewter, United States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives while serving our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Lance Corporal Justin Kyle Lewter, United States Marine Corps, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on November 4, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Lewter followed the patriotic tradition for which Rutherford County and the Volunteer State are renowned for by serving with distinction in the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Justin Kyle Lewter was born and raised in Rutherford County, attending Rockvale and Christiana elementary schools, Christiana Middle School, and Riverdale High School before transferring to Holloway High School from which he graduated a year early; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Justin Kyle Lewter joined the United States Marine Corps at the age of seventeen and was promoted to Lance Corporal within one year; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Justin Kyle Lewter was assigned as a rifleman to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Justin Kyle Lewter had served one tour of duty in Iraq and was to begin training for a tour in Afghanistan when the car he was driving was struck by a military Humvee at the intersection of Basilone and Las Pulgas Roads on the North County base at Camp Pendleton on November 4, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Justin Kyle Lewter is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Justin Kyle Lewter's personal service awards include the National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Justin Kyle Lewter served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Marine Corps, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society; the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Lewter's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, country and county, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Justin Lewter selflessly gave his life while serving his country, and it is thus most appropriate that a certain bridge on State Route 99 in his home county should be named to honor his memory, in accordance with the request of the Rutherford County Commission; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bridge spanning Interstate 24 on State Route 99 (New Salem Road) in Rutherford County is hereby designated the "Lance Corporal Justin Kyle Lewter Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the life of valor and death in patriotic service of Lance Corporal Justin Kyle Lewter, United States Marine Corps, one of Tennessee's most heroic citizens.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Lance Corporal Justin Kyle Lewter Memorial Bridge". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.